

In the news from Amateur Radio New South Wales for this week;

Last Monday the 11th, marked 109 years since the formation of the first Australian Amateur Radio organisation, in Sydney. Despite numerous changes in the following years, this organisation continues today, in part, as Amateur Radio NSW.

Another historic milestone later in the year, is the United States' time and frequency standard service, WWV, which will observe its Centenary in October.

The March / April issue of AR Magazine has started to arrive, though we have been advised that some copies arriving on the VK2 North Coast have a printing and layout error. You might want to check your copy.

Here at VK2WI Dural, recent storms have been kind on the recent ground works, providing some much needed rain. Parts of the site are still of limits to vehicles for the time being.

Hopefully, the current weather conditions along the coast have not affected those taking part in John Moyle Contest. We have been advised that the Oxley Region group had to cancel due to rain.

Remember that since there are five Sundays for this month, the March ARNSW Trash & Treasure is on Sunday the 31st.

Then in April, the first Sunday – that's Sunday the 7th – the south-eastern states return to standard time. VK2WI news bulletins remain at the same local times, of 10am and 7.30pm. If the change in time zone affects the radio propagation to you, remember that VK2WI News is streamed live on our website, at arnsw.org.au/audio.

Finally some progress is becoming visible with the new provider of Amateur Radio assessments in Australia. Here at ARNSW, we are tentatively looking to resume Foundation classes with weekend as previously scheduled. Other groups are also looking to recommence operations, and we will bring you the details as we are advised, here at VK2WI News.

ARNSW Radio Experimenter's Group

This Tuesday evening the 19th, the ARNSW Radio Experimenters Group will be holding their monthly net.

The net starts at 8pm on the Dural 2 metre repeater, 147.0MHz and then at about 8:30pm will move over to HF - on 80 metres, with a frequency of 3686.4 kHz. As well as store bought equipment, participants are encouraged to use homebrewed equipment on AM, DSB or SSB.

So for those interested in building their own equipment, experimenting with radios or just looking for a new aspect of amateur radio, then join the net.

The next meeting of the group is at noon on Sunday the 31st of March, after the Trash and Treasure – here at VK2WI, 63 Quarry Rd Dural.

This month we will have a double presentation. Firstly, Brian VK2GCE will give a presentation on the theory and mathematics of how power transformers work. Basically - "everything you wanted to know about transformers, but was afraid to ask". This will include among other things - Faraday's Law, Lenz's Law, Magnetisation Law as well as core materials and windings.

This will be followed by Bernie VK2ABN on the practical uses of a transformer - how to pull them apart and rewind them for different voltages. Specifically, how to rewind them for making heater transformers for high powered valves, such as the 813 which requires 10V at 5Amps, not something commonly available to buy these days.

The meeting starts with the usual "Show and Tell" segment where members of the audience get up to show some project that they have been working on.

So come to the trash and treasure in the morning and stay for the Radio Experimenters Group meeting at noon—at VK2WI, 63 Quarry Road Dural, on Sunday 31st of March.

*Advised by Peter VK2EMU
Coordinator, ARNSW Radio and Experimenters Group.*

ARNSW 40m Buildathon review

Sunday the 10th of March saw over 30 attendees at our 40 metre balun and dipole build-a-thon, here at VK2WI Dural.

Starting at 10am, we opened the day with a presentation from an experienced SOTA participant, speaking on the how and why of the dipole antenna. An excellent address, which also compared the various types of HF antennas as well as the pros and cons of each.

Then the construction began in earnest. Each entrant had their own pack, the contents depending on what had been ordered. Sitting beside an experienced Ham, the balun was built using a fully completed unit as an example.

Most participants brought their own tools for the construction of the baluns. The preferred option was to build the balun from the basic kit, though some chose instead to assemble a partially-built balun.

Next was construction of the antenna itself, with most participants choosing to get their antennas tested in the configuration of an inverted 'V'.

In the middle of 'dipole school' was lunch. This consisted of a free BBQ including fresh rolls, coleslaw, potato salad, cheese, tomato and sausages.

By about 2.15 pm, most had departed with resonance and a full packet of ohms.

The day was fun and educational, and if there is continued interest, we will organise another in the future.

*AI VK2OK
ARNSW Event Co-ordinator.*

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 8th to the 14th of March.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th
10cm flux	72	71	71	70	71	71	70
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	3	4	3	3	5	4	6 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	2	4	1	2	4	1	5 estimated
T index	-10	-4	+3	-7	-5	-10	-7

Solar activity was low on the 8th, then very low for the rest of the week.

Geomagnetic activity was at quiet from the 8th to the 13th, then quiet to unsettled on the 14th.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, remained near predicted monthly values.

Now, the forecast for the 8th to the 14th of March;

Solar activity is expected to be very low, with no current or returning active solar regions.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be mostly quiet to unsettled. Some active conditions are possible early in the week, due to coronal hole effects.

Maximum Usable Frequencies are expected to be remain near predicted monthly values.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Solar Flux Index update

Here are the updated Solar Flux Index (SFI) figures for this week.

Having finished February, the figures were;

Minimum of 70, Average of 71, and a Maximum of 72
With peak dates between the 1st and the 2nd

Halfway through March, the prediction is a;

Minimum of 68, Average of 70, and a Maximum of 73
With peak dates between the 5th and the 13th

And looking ahead to the prediction for April, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 69, Average of 70, and a Maximum of 71
With peak dates from the 1st to the 9th, and the 27th to the 30th.

Update with thanks to Noel, VK2FUL.

[using daily data updates from :
<http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/products/usaf-45-day-ap-and-f107cm-flux-forecast>]

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What use is an F-call?

Tonight, we continue with the series, written and produced by Onno VK6FLAB. Each episode looks at different aspects of the diverse hobby of Amateur Radio.

[Play File: E-FCAL039.wav]

Duration: 1m58s

In: "What use is an F-call?"

Out: "I'm Onno vk6flab"

For more information about this series, including transcripts and useful resources for F-calls, Onno's website is; vk6flab.com, or follow him on Twitter, @VK6FLAB.

ARRL DX news

VIETNAM; Jean-Pierre, F6CTF will be active as 3W9JF from Hoi An, until April 6. Activity will be on 80, 40, 20 and 17 metres using CW and SSB.

TOGO; Members of the EI DX Group are active as 5V7EI until March 26. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes with five stations active.

UGANDA; Members of the Italian DXpedition Team are active as 5X3C until March 25. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB and RTTY. They are active as 5X3E using FT8.

SENEGAL; Jacques, F6HMJ will be active as 6W7/F6HMJ from March 19 to April 28. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres using mostly CW with some SSB.

TONGA; Masa, JA0RQV will be active as A35JP from Tongatapu Island, IOTA OC-049, until March 27. Activity is on 80 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and FT8.

PHILIPPINES; Press, N6SS is active as DU6/N6SS from Panay Island, IOTA OC-129, until April 17. Activity is on 160, 80 and 40 metres using CW, SSB and FT8. This includes an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest.

NIUE; Alex, 5B4ALX will be active as E6ET from Niue, IOTA OC-040, from March 19 to April 2. Activity will be on 160 to 6 metres, except 80 metres but including 60 metres, using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. This includes an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest.

SPAIN; Special event station EE100V is active throughout March to celebrate the centennial anniversary of the Valencia Football Club.

CURACAO; Andreas, DK5ON is active as PJ2/DK5ON until March 30. Activity is on 80 to 6 metres, including 60 metres, using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. This includes being active in the Russian DX contest.

INDIA; Members of the Bangalore Amateur Radio Club are active with special call sign AU60BARC until May 13, to celebrate the club's 60th anniversary.

MYANMAR; Yuki, JH1NBN will be active as XZ2C from March 20 to 28. Activity will be on 15, 12, 10 and 6 metres using all modes and QRP power.

OPERATION APPROVED FOR DXCC CREDIT; The following operation is approved for DXCC credit: Tristan da Cunha and Gough Island, ZD9CW, 2018 operation.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The BARTG HF RTTY Contest, Russian DX Contest, AWA John Rollins Memorial DX CW Contest, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, AGCW VHF/UHF Contest, Louisiana QSO Party, Virginia QSO Party, Feld Hell Sprint and the UBA Spring 80-Metre SSB Contest are all on over this weekend.

The Bucharest Contest and Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest are scheduled for March 18.

The CLARA Chatter Party is scheduled for March 19.

The CWops Mini-CWT Test, QRP 40-Metre CW Fox Hunt and Phone Fray are scheduled for March 20.

The Canadian National Parks on the Air, CNPOTA, event runs throughout 2019, with special stations active from Canada's parks and historic sites.

WICEN News

WICEN NSW is once again supporting Dementia Australia's Memory Walk and Jog events. These are short events, typically packed up by noon, and ideal for new members. The upcoming events are;

In the hunter at Speers Point Park, Lake Macquarie on March the 31st;
Western Sydney – at Tench Reserve, Penrith on April 7th;
And Sydney - Leichhardt Oval #3, Lilyfield (over the "Bay Run") on May 19th.

April 7 is also a training day here at VK2WI Dural. WICEN is intending to conduct training on the first Sunday of each month.

True Grit is an obstacle course running event, scheduled for the 1st and 2nd of June, and the OCR World Championship 24 hour is on the 8th and 9th of June. Both events are at Lower Portland, in outer NW Sydney. The Glow Worm Marathon is at Newnes, on June 15th and 16th.

The WICEN website is at nsw.wicen.org.au and includes a web contact form. Facebook users will find an official WICEN NSW page, and an informal national WICEN group.

WICEN Northern Rivers holds a weekly net on Tuesdays at 8pm, on the Lismore repeater VK2RSC on 146.8 MHz, requiring a 123 Hz tone. Listen for VK2WIR.

The WICEN Mid North Coast Region meets at 3:30pm on the first Saturday of the month, at SES HQ, Central Road, Port Macquarie. The region is also running an HF net on Thursday evenings from 7pm, on the band-plan's 80 metre WICEN frequency of 3.6MHz.

WICEN ACT is part of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club, supporting events in the ACT and Capital Country, and on the South Coast of NSW. The Canberra Two-Day walk is March 30 and 31, then Friday May 10th and Saturday 11th are the BMSC National Capital Rally. The SCSCC Bega Rally is on June 8 & 9. See the WICEN and Events pages on www.crarc.ampr.org.

WICEN Victoria will be supporting Duncan's Run, an Ultra-Marathon on Saturday the 23rd of March. The Kenda Rally, a motorcycle endurance event, is on Sunday May 5th and the The Mallee Rally is on June the 8th. Due to extreme drought conditions affecting the property and track, the Sunraysia 400 has been cancelled. More information can be found on the website, vic.wicen.org.au.

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Club News

We start this week, with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

Yesterday's planned participation in the John Moyle Memorial Field Day, with Club station VK2BOR operating from Camden Haven Airfield, unfortunately had to be cancelled due to the continuing rain. It was a disappointment as all were keen and ready to go, but it was looking like the weather had really set in for the day.

Better news from last weekend, however – on Sunday the 10th of March, the club is conducted a 40 metre dipole antenna building and testing day at Port Macquarie, in conjunction with the ARNSW 40 metre dipole Buildathon at Dural.

The event at Port Macquarie proved to be very popular with 17 antennas being constructed and tested on the day, and one more was completed later. Congratulations to Rob VK2CRF who erected his newly built 40 metre dipole when he got home and worked into Moscow, with a 5 and 8 report. His next contact was into Chile with a 5 and 7 report. Needless to say, Rob is very pleased with his handiwork!

The next meeting is the Club's monthly general meeting, at 2pm on Saturday the 6th of April, in the SES Building, Central Road, Port Macquarie.

Candidates for the Foundation, Standard and Advanced Licences should contact the club via PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444 regarding training and assessments.

The club conducts two nets each week; the mid-week net starts at 7:30pm on Thursday nights, and the weekend net starts at 9am on Sunday mornings. Both nets are on the VK2RPM 2 metre repeater, 146.7MHz. This repeater requires a 91.5Hz sub-audible tone for access.

Visitors are always made very welcome at the club's monthly general meetings at 2pm on the first Saturday of each month, and at the Friday night gathering at 7pm on the evening of the third Friday of each month. The venue for all these meetings is the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

For more information about the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club, visit the website at orarc.org. The site contains a wealth of Amateur Radio items in addition to club information. The January 2019 edition of the Club's bimonthly newsletter, Oxtales, is now online, and past issues are available on the website as well. The March 2019 issue of Oxtales is in preparation and will be published soon. The club is also on Facebook; just search for ORARC.

*Submitted by Henry VK2ZHE
For the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.*

Hunter Radio Group

The Group holds meetings on the second Friday of each month, except for December and January. The next meeting will be on the 12th of April.

Meetings are held at the Adamstown Bowling Club, 504 Glebe Road, Adamstown, starting at 7:30pm.

The Hunter Radio Group conducts a Monday night broadcast starting at 7.30pm, on the Group's Repeaters, 146.900MHz on 2 metres, and 438.025MHz on 70cm. Callbacks are taken after the broadcast.

Rodney, VK2CN
Secretary, Hunter Radio Group

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

Yesterday's CCARC lecture unfortunately had to be cancelled as the lecturer could not be present; instead there was a "show and tell" fest.

All Meetings of the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club are held at the clubrooms in Dandaloo St, Kariong, just past the fire station. Meetings start at 1pm, preceded by the famous sausage sizzle run by master chef Steve VK2SKC, from noon. The Club rooms are accessible by bus, with a stop just opposite Dandaloo St, serviced by the route 34 bus from Gosford railway station every hour. The Club rooms are usually open from 10.30am on Saturday, for general chit-chat and access to the Club workshop and library. The Club conducts Foundation training on an as-required basis, and a new course is coming up soon.

The Club relays VK2WI News broadcasts every Sunday morning and evening. Callbacks are taken after the morning news only, on the Somersby 6 and 2m repeaters VK2RAG on 53.725 and 146.725 MHz respectively; please note that both repeaters require the standard sub-audible tone of 91.5 Hz.

The Club also runs a mixed-mode repeater VK2RAG on 439.950 MHz, which is connected to the P25 network; a 91.5 Hz tone is required for analogue access, and is highly recommended for receiving.

There is a net held every Thursday on the 2m repeater VK2RAG on 146.725, starting at 8pm; all members are encouraged to join (especially if Club news for the ARNSW broadcast is involved). There is also an experimental HF net on 80m, but it is difficult to find a free frequency so it will be announced on the VHF net. Club news is happily accepted at "publicity@ccarc.org.au", preferably by 12 noon on Friday. Listeners may "join" the net by email to "netmaster@ccarc.org.au" and their comments will be read out.

The Club also has a Facebook page: just look for "centralcoastarc", so be sure to "like" it to receive further updates. There is also a Twitter account on @ccarclub [pronounced "At CC AR Club"], and a YouTube channel streaming world-wide via several modes which is proving to be quite popular, especially with interstate visitors.

Further information about the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club, can be found on the website, www.ccarc.org.au.

Dave VK2KFU

Publicity Officer, Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club

Club station VK2HZ is active on several bands for the John Moyle Contest, from the Katoomba Airfield, and will be listening on many of the regular calling frequencies. Why not keep an ear out for the team and say hello!

Club meetings are on the first Friday night of each month, excluding January, starting at 7:30pm local time. Meetings are at the former Scout Hall, 4 Moore Street, Glenbrook, behind the Oval.

The next meeting is on Friday, 5th of April; we hope to see anyone who can attend and as always, newcomers are most welcome.

The club regularly holds Foundation training courses, which will resume once the details of the new examination process is finalised and we hope to have news of this soon.

In the meantime, we are holding training in Radio and Electronics theory from 7pm on Thursday nights at Glenbrook; this is suitable for those intending on sitting for Standard and Advanced Licence Exams.

For any queries regarding training at BMARC, please e-mail education@bmarc.org.

Club activities include weekly Nets on HF and two metres, Tech talks, show-and-tell, Guest Speakers, Field Days and JOTA, project and antenna Building, and of course, a good old chin-wag.

For more information, please visit website at BMARC.org or come along to our next meeting on Friday the 5th of April.

*Submitted by Steve VK2TSG
Vice-President, Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club*

Waverley Amateur Radio Society

This year, the Society celebrates its centenary and is currently using special event call signs VI2BV100, and VI2BV on digital modes. The special call sign is being used for Monday night nets so its regularly on air at present. Club members are also eligible to use the call sign, Edwin VK2VEL has organised the roster for doing this.

We would like to remind listeners that the WIA AGM and conference is this year being held in Sydney during May. The call for papers is now open, so if you have a paper you would like to present, get it in as soon as possible. Details can be found on the WIA website, and there is a link to the page in the text version of this news item.

[\[https://www.wia.org.au/joinwia/wia/2019agm\]](https://www.wia.org.au/joinwia/wia/2019agm)

This coming Wednesday, March 20th, is our monthly general meeting, commencing at 7:30pm. There is no lecture planned, however there will be Tales from Tooraweenah as well as from the Ferry Contest so it should be an interesting night. As always, the tea and coffee will be available during and after the meeting. Many also gather in the RSL next door, prior to the meeting from about 6:00pm for some dinner. All are welcome to join us.

The society has regular get-togethers on the first Sunday of each month at Rose Bay for those interested in playing Morse code. The group welcomes everyone interested in finding out more about Morse, or CW; whether you're a beginner, want to brush up or re-learn Morse code. CW enthusiasts of all skill levels meet to swap ideas and experiences and learn about operating and contesting. The group meets 11am on the first Sunday of every month at the Rose Bay club rooms and everyone is invited, even if you aren't yet licensed. The contact is at morsecode@vk2bv.org or just drop in when we meet on a Sunday morning.

The next shack night is scheduled for Wednesday, April 3rd starting at 7:30pm. The next project day will be on Saturday April 6th commencing at 1:30pm and going through to about 4:00 or 5:00pm.

As usual, the club is open most Tuesdays for all the retirees, idle rich, those just skipping work for the day or any others who can make it along from about 10:00am to about 3:00pm.

As it appears the new exam process is starting up, Foundation courses and assessments should be able to go ahead. The society's next planned dates are in May, on the 11th and 12th. Details and how to book can be found on the website in the Education and Training section.

Don't forget the club's weekly net on the VK2RBV repeater on 438.1125MHz with -5.4MHz offset and 91.5Hz tone from 8:00pm every Monday, currently using the special callsign VI2BV100.

There is full information about the Waverley Amateur Radio Society, on its website at vk2bv.org, which is regularly updated. It includes the capability to renew membership, purchase items or book and pay for courses or assessments online. There is also an enquiry form on the webpage, which is normally actioned within a day or two.

*73 from Eric VK2VE
Broadcast Publicity Officer*

Manly-Warringah Radio Society

Coming up this Wednesday is lecture night at the Society; this month's speaker is Colin VK2JCC, who will talk about the Clansman Combat Net Radio System, which was used by the British Army from 1976 through to 2010.

Last month's lecture by Norm Champion, on the challenges of manufacturing cutting-edge communications gear for civil aviation and the military, will be up on YouTube shortly. Just go to [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search for "V K 2 M B dash T V" (VK2MB-TV). There you'll also find many previous club lectures, plus other videos about Amateur operations.

Visit the society web site for other news, information about the various club projects such as the WebSDR (sponsored by ARNSW), the club YouTube channel VK2MB-TV, the club's Scouting program and much more.

The Manly-Warringah Radio Society meets every Wednesday evening at the 1st Terrey Hills Guides Hall, Beltana Avenue, Terrey Hills. Doors open at 7.30pm for an 8pm start, and visitors are always welcome. If you need directions, call in on the club's two metre repeater on 146.875 MHz, or visit the club's web site at www.mwrs.org.au for more information.

*73 Richard VK2SKY
MWRS Publicity Officer*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the Club will be the March general meeting on Tuesday the 26th, starting at 8pm. The meeting is at the Mt Colah Community Centre, near the northern end of Pierre Close, opposite the eastern entrance of Mt Colah Railway Station.

The Club runs three nets each week. Monday's net starts at 8pm on the VK2RNS 2 metre repeater, 147.250MHz No tone is required, but a 91.5 Hz tone is sent. The 80 metre net is on Wednesday evenings on 3608.5 kHz, also from 8pm, and Morning Tea with HADARC is on or near 7106 kHz from 9am on Fridays.

HADARC's website is at: www.hadarc.org.au. The club has a group on Facebook, which can be found by searching for VK2MA, and on twitter, @VK2MA.

*Submitted by Julian VK2YJS
HADARC Publicity Officer.*

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Summary of coming events;

March

ARNSW Radio Experimenters Group net on the 19th

Waverley ARS general meeting on the 20th

Manly-Warringah lecture night on the 20th

HADARC Monthly General Meeting on the 26th

Westlakes ARC car boot sale, from 9am on the 30th

ARNSW Trash & Treasure and Radio Experimenters Group on the 31st

April

Blue Mountains ARC meeting on the 5th

Oxley Region ARC monthly meeting on the 6th

Daylight Saving Time ends on the 7th

Illawarra ARS Meeting at Coniston on the 9th

Hunter Radio Group meeting on the 12th

ARNSW AGM on the 13th

Urunga Convention on the Easter weekend, 20th and 21st

May

ARNSW Trash & Treasure and Radio Experimenters Group on the 26th

Manly-Warringah show and tell night on the 29th